



The Jewish

Gaily Forward

Iyyar+Sivan+Tamuz 5773 ■ May+June 2013

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Wake Up for Tikkun Leil Shavuot

At Sinai we slept through the night before receiving the Torah. It took a shofar blast to wake us up. This year we have the fabulous educators of CSZ to help us stay awake. When we study Torah—in all of its glorious forms—we again stand at Sinai and receive revelation. After a ma'ariv service and a dairy potluck (who can learn without food?), we'll have workshops. Feel free to drop in and add your personal midrash to our evolving understanding of Torah and the world. Stay tuned for more details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Pride at Sha'ar Zahav

Pride Seder and Potluck Dinner

6:00–7:15 pm, starting promptly at 6

Led by Andrew Ramer and Karen Schiller

Begin your Pride Shabbat celebration by recounting the story of our liberation as LGBTQ people at Sha'ar Zahav's 9th annual **Pride Seder**. Using our Pride Haggadah as a guide, we will share stories, poems, songs and rituals to honor our history and our heroes, and to celebrate the steps we have made toward freedom. As the Seder ends, we will move upstairs to our Pride Shabbat Friday night service. Please bring a (continued on page 14)

Reflections on Sha'ar Zahav's Double-Chai Anniversary

BY DANIEL CHESIR, FOUNDER

So what were our hopes and visions in 1977 when we first began to hold Sha'ar Zahav services? Frankly, my “vision” never went beyond the next week, at least not initially. It was all that Bernard Pechter, Derek Durst and I could do to make sure that there would be services the following week—and that we would have a place to hold them. In our first years, we met in at least five different locations, before settling down in semi-permanent residency at the old JCC, until 1984 when we found “a home of our own” on Danvers Street.

For the first year or so, there was no formal organizational structure to Sha'ar Zahav. Once that happened, it seemed possible that we'd be around for a while and we hoped that we could fashion a home for Gay and Lesbian Jews in a then still somewhat unwelcoming community.

We didn't envision a religious school for children, since in the late '70s and '80s Gays and Lesbians didn't have kids, and we didn't envision the horror of the AIDS epidemic and how it would affect us.

We operated mostly on volunteer energy. Dues were originally \$40 per adult member. We recognized the need for a rabbi and reconciled ourselves to the true cost of a synagogue with staff. Our members' generosity made it possible to grow into a full service congregation.

Particularly in light of these uncertain beginnings, we can appreciate where we are now and what so many of us have worked hard at establishing and maintaining. We rose to the challenge of dealing with AIDS (remember the Phoohey on AIDS fund and the monthly Sunday morning brunches at Kaiser San Francisco?) and we've established a thriving religious school for our children.

While we were beginning to have an impact on the Bay Area Jewish community, we also became attractive to mixed gender couples and families. Just think how they have contributed to our growth as a more progressive and diverse community! Our welcoming environment also invited in non-Jews whose conversion to Judaism and commitment to synagogue leadership has strengthened us immensely. We're now a progressive, diverse and participatory community that honors and maintains our LGBTQ culture and history while welcoming all.

We've recently completed our strategic plan, to which a great number of our members contributed their thoughts and ideas. It serves as our vision for the future in continuing to build a meaningful and rich Jewish community.

May Sha'ar Zahav continue to go from strength to strength!!!



CSZ Founders, Daniel Chesir, Derek Durst, Bernard Pechter, z'l, at the first Shabbat service in Mishkan Dolores on November 20, 1998
Photo by Michael Bettinger

Mazel Tov Sha'ar Zahav on 36 Years! Four More to the Promised Land?



MA'ASEH *sh'hayah*, "it once happened," that a group of three knowledgeable Jews, who knew themselves to be gay, decided to organize a gay, Jewish gathering for Shabbat. It was San Francisco and the year was 1977.

With the backdrop of the rebellious liberation spirit of the 1960s, feminism, and the sexual revolution—gathering a group of gay Jews for Shabbat seemed like a compelling idea. Little could those men, and the women and men, who soon came to join them, imagine that they would come to be considered founders, seed-planting gardeners, and *shomrim*, guardians of a new brand of being authentically Jewish, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

In 1977, I was twelve years old. The only time I had ever encountered the word "homosexual" in a Jewish book was when I snuck my father's copy of *Love, Sex, and Marriage: A Jewish View*, written by Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn and published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in 1976. On the verge of puberty, I was seeking language to help define my budding sexuality only to find confusing messages, at best. I hesitate to repeat them here, and yet I do because I want you to know how far we have come and how much we have been able to change.

"We do not really know what causes homosexuality.

According to one theory, it results from chemical imbalances. Another explanation is that it comes from unhealthy and unhappy relations between opposite sexes. Another explains that masturbation either signals or causes homosexuality. If, however, a young person has persistent and gnawing fears that he or she is homosexual he or she need not worry. Homosexuals manifest no greater number of serious personality problems than one would expect to find in the normal population."¹

We know how words can create and destroy whole worlds—and from that day forward, seeds of internalized homophobia

were sadly implanted in my Jewish heart. For years while participating in Jewish settings like camp, *beit sefer*, youth group, I felt awkward and like a misfit because I harbored an unseemly secret about myself. I wanted to belong but in order to do so, I had to learn to compartmentalize my sense of self and thus compromise my integrity of self. The possibility of feeling blessed by God as being created just right seemed unfathomable.

Between then and now tectonic cultural and ideological plates have shifted and the sex-positive language and discourse available to us reveals a liberating new landscape. Today a young Jew can Google "Judaism, Gays and Lesbians" and instantaneously find many positive references and resources celebrating and sanctifying same-sex desire and love. Our own *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav* crowns the list.

We have been pioneers. In 1982 our first *siddur* appeared and since then we have a tradition of creating liturgy that reflects who we are.

Our goal, not just with our liturgy, but in every way, is to convey a message of acceptance and inclusion, a heartfelt warm welcome. Here, at Sha'ar Zahav, we seek nothing less than to fulfill the prophetic words of Isaiah, "This place shall be a place for all peoples; where all who seek to belong, shall belong [Isaiah 56:7]."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG?

- To belong is to be related to and a part of something.
- The experience of being at home in the broadest sense of the phrase.
- It is the opposite of thinking that wherever I am, I would be better off somewhere else.
- The opposite of belonging is to feel isolated, always (all ways) on the margin, an outsider.
- To belong is to know, even in the middle of the night, that I am among friends.

(continued on page 11)

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President's Column



QUESTIONS. Jews ask lots of questions. Only in Judaism will you find a two-volume publication called *The Book of Why*. At the end of a school day, parents are encouraged to find out if their children asked good questions. At Pesach, a portion of the Seder is devoted to Four Questions. We often cite Rabbi Akiva's questions "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" Questioning seems to begin in the Torah when HaShem asks the human beings "Ayeka?—Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9).

That question always intrigued me. Surely Adam and Eve hadn't gone missing, like my car keys do. Are Adam and Eve really playing hide and seek with the Eternal One? What does it mean to ask: "Where are you?" Rabbi Baruch HaLevi provides some insight in his book *Revolution of Jewish Spirit*. He says *Ayeka?* is HaShem's question after Adam and Eve have eaten of the forbidden fruit. It's an open-ended question. "Where are you in your life? Where are you now that you've stumbled and fallen? Have you learned from it?"

Ayeka? Perhaps that open-ended question can also be asked after a period of success. Where are you now? What led to this success? What comes next? How will you rise to the next level?

Ayeka? It's not about where you are in a physical sense. Rabbi HaLevi writes that it's a spiritual question. And the answer is *Hineni*—Here I am!

As the congregation celebrates its 36 years of innovative success, it's an appropriate time to ask where we are, and where we are going. What do we want our future to be? How will we get there? Collectively, we can answer: "Here we are!" Our double Chai milestone gives us opportunities to explore and deepen our connectedness within the CSZ community. In recent months individual members have found personally meaningful ways to expand their involvement in Sha'ar Zahav; I'd like to share two examples

One member noticed that our beautiful Torah scrolls seemed lost inside the Ark. Working with the Building &

Grounds Committee, we created a plan to illuminate the scrolls. This new lighting illuminates the stained glass doors and makes a jaw-dropping difference every time the Ark is opened.

In another example, our member Jane Rice was moved by Rabbi Angel's quotation from Yehuda Amichai's poetry during her High Holy Day sermon. That quotation inspired Jane to produce a beautiful piece of original art that now adorns the stairway leading to the Sanctuary.

These two congregants said *Hineni*—and they both found themselves more deeply connected within our community.

As we move forward, we are going to be looking for ways to strengthen and improve the ties of each of our members, ways that allow all of us to answer *Hineni*. You won't be asked to donate new lighting or create original artwork! But you will be asked to volunteer, to contribute your special ideas and talents, time, energy and creativity to our community. We hope you'll seize the opportunity to be a face of welcoming by serving as a greeter, or deepen our knowledge by leading a workshop, or building and strengthening our community by serving on a committee, or meet new friends while setting up trays for Friday's Oneg. You can also choose from a myriad of other opportunities that you might be invited to participate in or conceive on your own.

Although it may seem like we are asking for something *from* you, in reality we are looking for ways to give something *to* you. In return for your involvement, you get a more vibrant community, a wider network of friends, expanded ways for you and your family to be Jewishly involved and a host of other benefits that come from being part of this wonderful 36 year old synagogue.

We won't rise to a new level of vitality and invigoration without you. When you hear *Ayeka?*, please answer *Hineni*!

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 Volume 33, issue 3

The Walter Leiss High Holiday Oneg Fund

The race up the stairs of the Herbst Theater to feast on the Rosh Hashanah oneg and post Yom Kippur break-fast is now a firmly-entrenched Sha'ar Zahav tradition.

Everyone wants to be the first to quickly scan the tables laden with breads, fish, cheese, fruits and pastries. We ask ourselves, "Where to begin?" each year.

The bounty offered on these tables has been paid for—every year—by our treasured member and benefactor, Walter Leiss. Through good economic times and bad, Walt has maintained his generosity to our congregation in this, and in so many other ways.

Now, as we approach the "double chai" 36th anniversary of Walt's oneg sponsorship, he has ensured that his legacy will continue. With a gift of \$136,000, Walt has endowed the Walter

Leiss High Holiday Oneg Fund under the umbrella of our Endowment Fund. The annual interest on this fund will be used to pay for future High Holiday onegs. Walt would be honored to have other CSZ members share in his legacy by making their own donations directly to the new oneg fund. Donations in his honor may be made to the Walter Leiss High Holiday Oneg Fund of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

We are deeply grateful to Walt for his continued love and financial support of our congregation. We wish him good health and a life full of the rewards he deserves

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This Movement We Call Sha'ar Zahav

CANTOR SHARON BERNSTEIN

A few weeks ago, I encountered a TED talk (<http://www.ted.com/talks>) by Derek Sivers entitled "How to start a movement". He shows a video in which a guy gets up and starts dancing in a park. That guy is joined by another guy, and then yet another guy, and then a few more folks, and then a few more, until just about everyone in the park is up and dancing.

What Mr. Sivers says about this is that it's a combination of the leader and the followers who create a movement. The leader is the one with the initial idea and the guts to stand out and risk being ridiculed. The first follower—an underestimated form of leadership, he says—is the one who joins in and translates that lone visionary into a leader. The second follower is the one who, by joining in, translates the first two into a crowd of three. The next two or three who join in are the ones who begin to generate some momentum.

When I saw this video, I immediately thought about Sha'ar Zahav. Sha'ar Zahav is a combination of a movement in and of itself, and a many and varied series of movements within that movement. In these movements, we are a glorious mix of both leaders and followers. Anyone, at any time, can be a leader, a first follower, a second follower, and/or the subsequent followers, the creators of momentum. Our community not only thrives on this endless permutation of possibilities, but it's part, I think, of what makes us so special, unique. Within our community, anyone can generate an idea, and anyone can choose to follow. In a certain sense, at any time, in any situation, everyone in our community is both leader and follower.

The movements we have created have reached far beyond Mishkan



Purim Festivities: Al Baum and Ron Lezell (L to R)

Photo by Michael Bettinger

Dolores. Our "dance", our courage and delight in standing up, as both leaders and followers, has inspired many, influencing and even changing the landscapes of Judaism, LGBTQIQ life, and social justice. Who would have thought that this community, this movement, started by just three, would impact so many, would take so many of us seedlings, extending our roots farther into fertile ground and flourishing high and wide into the sky? A forest we are, so many *atzei chayim*, trees of life, intertwined with each other and riffing off of that inimitable tree of life, the Torah, at the center of our community.

As we move into our next 36—double chai—years, I think of new movements we might begin. I think of endless possibilities, of the extraordinary members of our community, of the fun, fabulous, deep, meaningful, life-changing, world-changing, WAY out of

the box ideas we can generate. I think of what it means for us to draw together, to inspire and learn from each other, to not only create movements, but to be *in* movement, to be moved and moving together. To experience series of rich moments within these movements, to warm our toes and hearts and spirits and souls upon the burnished flame that we have so fostered.

We are all the leaders and followers of these movements. We can each get up and dance when we feel like it, see what happens. And when we see someone doing a wonderfully fabulous something, we can each be that first follower, that important one to jump up and join in. And in this way, together, we'll continue creating this oh-so-lovely movement we call Sha'ar Zahav.

Happy 36th Anniversary!

Charles Spiegel Law

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From Strength to Strength



THIRTY SIX or double chai (double life), covers an expansive time in Sha'ar Zahav and LGBT history. The first time that I encountered Sha'ar Zahav, I was 18 years old on a break from my summer job working as a counselor at Camp Swig. I knew then that it was a special place, but had no idea the deep impact it would have on my life.

Reform Jewish education as a whole, has changed significantly in the past 36 years. Thirty six years ago my education was filled with social justice, Save Soviet Jewry and the love of Israel. I knew I was suppose to embrace the lessons from the Holocaust and fight xenophobia, but even in Berkeley in the

for creating a love of Judaism through connectivity. So many of us who walked through the doors of Sha'ar Zahav were battle weary from dealing with homophobia in our families and communities. Kadimah, in its infancy, was a safe zone before they had stickers and was the best of what Sha'ar Zahav was and was going to become. Phyllis would go on to touch the lives of hundreds of families and leave a legacy overflowing with joy.

Fast forward twenty three years and we find ourselves, in our small but vibrant Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer, with a curriculum of rich Jewish literacy and progressive material that is truly some of the most radically deconstructive content in Jewish education. I would also add some of the most mean-

ingful B'nei Mitzvot in the country. The love with which Phyllis permeated the school lingers and has been touched by so many amazing educators: David Shneer, Rabbi Riqi Kosovske, Sue Bojdak, Kendra Lubalin, Andrea Guerra, Rabbi Dev Noily, Cherney, Ida Kuluk, Martin Rawlings Fein, Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, Cantor Sharon Bernstein and of course our b'nei mitzvah mentors. Our need to create "sanctuary" for our families has shifted, but our mission to strengthen Jewish identity through joyful love of Judaism has been a crystal clear line for all these years.

I feel such pride that I can still have a sense of where our first class is in their lives and am so happy to know that many of our students have stayed connected to their Jewish identities and communities. It is hard to

Phyllis Mintzer, z'l, Educator, May 1996 (standing, center). Photo by Michael Bettinger

predict where the next thirty six years in Jewish education will take us, but I feel absolutely confident that none of our students are going to feel that identity politic is a deterrent to their Jewish expression. I am excited to see what the future holds for the synagogue and how our young people will shape that future.

When we end a chapter in Torah we say chazak, chazak v'nit chazak. Strength, Strength go in strength. May this be G-d's will for the future of this incredible community.



1970's discussions of feminism, homophobia and race and class did not make their way into the Jewish classroom.

In 1990, (14 years into the life of the shul), having been out for several years, I wasn't sure if I could ever reconcile my deep love of Judaism and my queer identity. Then I met Phyllis Mintzer, who offered me a job at Kadimah, one year into the new school program. It was Phyllis and I and a cohort of some of the most wonderful students and families, I have worked with. Yoel Kahn was the Rabbi at the time and I think we all knew that our tiny school was to be groundbreaking in Jewish education history.

Phyllis called me "Rivka", and we each took a class and set upon doing the work of making our families feel as included as possible. Phyllis was, to date, my most profound mentor

Introducing the B'nei Mitzvah

Rafi Lubeck-Weiner



Rafi Lubeck-Weiner lives in Oakland's Dimond district with his parents, Susan Lubeck and Richard Weiner.

He has been a Sha'ar Zahav member since birth. Rafi loves spending time with friends, rock climbing, playing soccer, reading, outdoor adventures, as well as trips to visit family around the world. Family is very important to him. Rafi's mitzvah projects have

included serving food to the hungry, working on an urban farm that donates all its produce to the needy, and donating half his allowance for six months to contribute to drought relief in Niger. After letting his hair grow long, he donated it to Locks of Love.

Rose Patricia Heath Katz



Rose Katz is in 7th grade at Everett Middle School. Her family includes her moms, Lisa Katz and Sharon

Maggie. Her Nana Billye also lives with the family.

When she isn't studying for her Bat Mitzvah, Rose enjoys hanging out with her friends. She also loves drawing and doing arts and crafts. She likes math and science at school; her career goal is to be an engineer because she enjoys figuring out how to fix things and solve

problems in the real world.

Rose wishes to thank Rabbi Camille Angel and Rebecca Weiner for guiding her in Jewish education. She also thanks Ilana Bernstein for tutoring her in Hebrew, as well as mentoring her through her Bat Mitzvah preparation, and Andrew Ramer for guiding her in writing her Bat Mitzvah drash.

Heath, her sister Miriam, her cat Midie, and Miriam's cats Sweetpea and

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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25 IYYAR	26 IYYAR	27 IYYAR 7:00 pm MEDPC event with Dr. Yadgar	28 IYYAR 6:45 pm Va'ad Meeting	29 IYYAR 7:00 pm Rabbi Sheldon Lewis program	23 IYYAR 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	24 IYYAR 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:00 am Meditation Chavurah 10:15 am Shabbat Service 7:00 pm Havdallah Chavurah
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3 SIVAN	4 SIVAN	5 SIVAN 8:00 pm Tikkun Liel Shavuot	6 SIVAN 10:00 am Shavuot Service with Yizkor Office closed	7 SIVAN	8 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	9 SIVAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Rose Heath Katz Bat Mitzvah
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10 SIVAN 4:00 pm Music in the Mishkan	11 SIVAN	12 SIVAN	13 SIVAN 7:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting	14 SIVAN	15 SIVAN 6:00 pm Friday Night Live 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	16 SIVAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
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17 SIVAN	18 SIVAN Office closed- Memorial Day	19 SIVAN 7:00 pm Caregivers Group	20 SIVAN	21 SIVAN	22 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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24 SIVAN	25 SIVAN	26 SIVAN	27 SIVAN	28 SIVAN	29 SIVAN 7:30 pm Shabbat Service- Shabbat Batya	23 SIVAN 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:00 am Meditation 10:15 am Shabbat Service 7:00 pm Havdallah Chavurah
1 TAMUZ	2 TAMUZ	3 TAMUZ	4 TAMUZ 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting	5 TAMUZ	6 TAMUZ 6:00 pm East Bay Chavurah 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	7 TAMUZ 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service Bar Mitzvah of Rafi Lubeck Weiner
8 TAMUZ	9 TAMUZ	10 TAMUZ	11 TAMUZ	12 TAMUZ	13 TAMUZ 7:30 pm Shabbat Beat Service	14 TAMUZ 9:00 am Talmud Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
15 TAMUZ	16 TAMUZ	17 TAMUZ	18 TAMUZ	19 TAMUZ	20 TAMUZ 6:00 pm Pride Seder 7:30 pm Pride Shabbat SIR with Rabbi Rachel Adler	21 TAMUZ 9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
22 TAMUZ						

The Golden Gate to Community



REGINA WURST, ADMINISTRATOR

This is from the opening editorial article in the first *Jewish Gaily Forward* published in September 1977:

Rosh Hashanah celebrates creation; a woman, a man, a world. The earth continues on its journey around the sun; the endless cycle. A year passes and is then reborn. In 5737 we were alone, separated and under attack. The new year, 5738 finds us in the midst of creation; a family, a community, a Synagogue.

In the past, our feelings and need for reach other lay dormant. The events of the past year have made us aware that we must sleep no more. Our consciousness has been awakened. We are aware of the necessity to bind ourselves, one with the other. To stand, to grow, to fight. As Gay Jews, we are uniquely sensitive to the need for Human Rights, and this Rosh Hashanah, we renew our dedication to the long and difficult struggle ahead; as we demand JUSTICE.

Most of us have been cut off from our families and our people because of our gayness. Sha'ar Zahav is a Golden Gate thru which we pass and reclaim ourselves, our family and our Jewishness.

As sisters and brothers we must treat each other with kindness and respect. We must set aside our differences, recognizing that they *do* exist, knowing that we will learn from each other, and become stronger.

Signing the documents for selling 220 Danvers Street and buying 290 Dolores Street, June 1997: back left Ron Lezell, Ellie Cohen, Deborah Udin, Tiela Chalmers, Irene Ogus, Diana Buchbinder, David Stein. Photo by Michael Bettinger

It has been an honor to be your synagogue administrator for over six years now. During my years here at Sha'ar Zahav I have found that the congregation is indeed the Golden Gate through which many have passed to reclaim their selves, their family and their Jewishness, as it has been since its inception in 1977.

One new member recently said to me that he had been raised Jewish and then had become a spiritual seeker, but he ruminated, it becomes lonely and you feel a bit isolated being spiritual without a community. He felt that now he was looking for religion, a home and a family.

Sha'ar Zahav has a membership that is loyal, engaged and to whom this congregation is a precious home. As the congregation matures and society changes, I am sure that Sha'ar Zahav will build on its strengths and uniqueness and find ways to continue to be a refuge for those searching for a congregational family. Mazel tov on 36 years and may you thrive!

Rabbi Rachel Adler, Pride Shabbat, The Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar-in-Residence Friday, June 28

Rabbi Rachel Adler, Ph.D., Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Feminist Studies at HUC-JIR/Jack H. Skirball Campus/ Los Angeles is recognized as one of the first theologians to integrate feminist perspectives and concerns into the interpretation of Jewish texts and the renewal of Jewish law and ethics. Her essay "The Jew Who Wasn't There" (1971) is generally considered the first piece of Jewish feminist theology. She is the author of *Engendering Judaism* (1999), for which she was awarded the first National Jewish Book Award for Jewish Thought ever presented to a female theologian. Professor Adler was a contributor and on the editorial board of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (URJ Press, 2007) and wrote on the book of Leviticus for the 2009 weekly commentary "Reform Voices of Torah." Her cur-

rent articles are to be found in *Chapters of the Heart*, edited by Sue Levi Elwell and Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer; *Making A Difference: Essays on the Bible and Judaism in Honor of Tamara Cohn Eskenazi*, edited by David J.A. Clines, Kent Harold Richards, and Jacob L. Wright; *CCAR Journal* (Fall 2012); *Judaism and Health: A Handbook of Practical, Professional, and Scholarly Resources*, edited by Michele Prince; *AJS Perspectives*; and *The Jewish Political Tradition* (Volume 3), edited by Michael Walzer, Menachem Lorberbaum, et al. She is currently working on an article on J.B. Soloveitchik's conflicted view of Jewish women and an article on the feminism of Eliezer Berkovits. Professor Adler serves on the editorial boards of *Tikkun* and *Nashim*.

Dr. Adler received her Ph.D. in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California with a joint certificate in Judaica from HUC-JIR, M.A. in English Literature from Northwestern University, and Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Minnesota. She was ordained as a rabbi by HUC-JIR in 2012.

Dr. Adler inaugurates the Rabbi David Ellenson Chair in Jewish Religious Thought, which was established in tribute to Rabbi David Ellenson, N '77, Ph.D., HUC-JIR President, with a lead gift from Leona Aronof-Sadacca, a member of the Western Region Board of Overseers, and the generous participation of other individual benefactors.

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5774

New Location this year!

The San Francisco Scottish Rite Masonic Center
2850 Nineteenth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132
(at Sloat, across from Stern Grove)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 Erev Rosh Hashanah

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 Rosh Hashanah - 1st day

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 Rosh Hashanah - 2nd day

Services at Sha'ar Zahav

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 Erev Yom Kippur

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 Yom Kippur

Mazel Tov Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 2)

Experiencing this kind of friendship, hospitality is not easy or natural in the world we now live in.

How can we increase the amount of "belonging" or relatedness that people experience (that exists) in this community?

To belong to a community, is to act as a creator and co-owner of the community. What I consider mine, I will build and nurture.

Do you feel as though Sha'ar Zahav belongs to you?

You may think that after being here with you 12 years, a complete dozen as your rabbi, that I would feel like Sha'ar Zahav is *mine*—to do with it all I can.

But, I cannot do much of anything sustainable without each of you, person by person, not only family by family, but down to the individual, I need all hands on deck to make this place wholly sustainable, available, meaningful, spiritual, accessible, well-greased, and endlessly creative.

No one person, professional or volunteer "runs" Sha'ar Zahav. In our sort of cooperative adventure, we are partners and more powerful as a collective.

The work then is to seek in our community a wider and a deeper sense of emotional ownership. It means fostering

among all of our members a sense of attachment, deepening towards ownership and accountability.

When I think about *my* role in this community—I think about how I'm helping to create the experience of belonging. We are in community each time we find a place where we belong.

What is mine, is ours, for better and for worse, in good times and difficult times. Together, we endeavor; together we aspire; together we mourn and console one another and together we witness another new day.

Just as the "gayby boom" was impossible to imagine in 1977, and marriage equality—civil marriage for homosexuals, beyond belief; so too, has Sha'ar Zahav's contributions to Judaism far exceeded anything its founding members might have devised.

Thank you, Daniel Chesir for being a wonderful parental influence and to all those dedicated leaders, donors, and members, who over these years, have helped to realize the vision of this sacred community.

May our endeavors and aspirations continue to bear fruit and let us give thanks for the blessing of belonging.

L'chayim—Here's to the vibrancy of next 36!

I love you, Sha'ar Zahav.

¹ Gittelson, R. Bertram. (1980). *Love, sex, and marriage: a Jewish view*. Rev. ed. New York, N.Y.: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, p. 131ff.

The Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

James Carlson in honor of Cantor Bernstein and the Cantor Unplugged VI Committee;
in honor Jonathan Yorba's entrance into the Covenant;
in honor of Wendy Brummer's entrance into the Covenant

James Carlson in memory of Helga Hahn; Evelyn Slenker; his father, Ray Carlson;
in honor of Tony Enriquez's entrance into the Covenant

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in memory of Ivan Rainer, Ruth Rainero's father

Ruth Rainero, Pieter de Haan, Benjamin Rainero-de Haan and Ilana Rainero-de Haan in memory of Ivan Rainer

Brian Kheel

Friday Night Live

Susan Leff and Brad Post

General Donations

Allan Berenstein in memory of Juliette Giannini, mother of Dr. Avraham Giannini;
in memory of Evelyn Slenker, Ron Edelman's sister
in honor of Regina Wurst

Wendy Brummer in honor of Paul Cohen, her mentor

James Carlson in memory of Juliette Giannini

Tiela Chalmers in memory of Evelyn Slenker

Ellen Cleary in memory of Evelyn Slenker

Steven Elman in memory of Miep Uytterlinde, mother of Jon Uytterlinde

Steven Elman in memory of Dora Elman, and Evelyn Slenker

Herbert Felsenfeld in honor of Torah teaching by Rabbi Angel and Daniel Chesir.

Lisa Finkelstein in gratitude

Kathleen Friedlander for the Kugle Nosh Down

Dr. Avraham Giannini in honor of Cantor Bernstein

Marshall Gold

Marius Greenspan, Pesach donation

Susan Haney, Pesach donation

Alice Harron in honor of Wendy Brummer's entrance into the Covenant

Marjorie Hilsenrad in honor of Judy Huerta's entrance into the Covenant,

Ron Lezell in memory of his father, Sam Lezell.

Laura Lowe, Pesach donation

Mark Mackler in honor of Tom Latritz's service to the congregation

Alan Michels and Lauren Kim in memory of Evelyn Slenker

Florence and Steven Nacamulli for Chevre Kadisha in memory of Evelyn Slenker

Mark Pressler in honor of Karen Schiller

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in honor of Wendy Brummer's entrance into the Covenant, and in honor of Dr. Avraham Giannini.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Evelyn Slenker

Andrew Ramer, Pesach donation

Hilda Rosenfeld in memory of her mother, Sadie Rothenberg

Karen Schiller in memory of Helga Hahn

Barry Schmell, Pesach donation

Bill Smith, Pesach donation

Sen Talley in honor of Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara and all their furry kids

Marisa Uchin & Molly Kelly in honor of Wendy Brummer's entrance into the Covenant

Regina Wurst in honor of Dr. Avraham Giannini's birthday

Michael Zimmerman in memory of Ivan Rainer

Lydia Zinn

Ami Zusmann in honor of Wendy Brummer's entrance into the Covenant

High Holy Day Pledges

Ray Bernstein

Tony Harris

Lydia Linker

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz

Chai Cantor

Laura Lowe

Jonathan Funk

Phyllis Mintzer Education Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of Bonnie Franklin

Mark Pressler in honor of James Carlson

Rainbow 5771

Scott Kramer

Hilary Zaid & Lauren Augusta

Rainbow 5772

Diana Buchbinder

Erika Katske and Rabbi Reuben Zellman

Mark Pressler

Larry Wexler

Siddur Bookplates

Allan Berenstein in memory of his mother, Agnes Berenstein Schwartz, and his Zayde, Max Radetsky

Allan Berenstein in memory of his dad, Harry N. Berenstein; his bubbe, Perel Berenstein; his grandmother, Sadie Radetsky; his cousin, Berta Eskanos, his cousin, Phil Mankoff; Nancy Stern; and in memory of Marsha Nohl

Hershey Hirschkop in memory of Phyllis R. Adadzoglou

Howard Steiermann in memory of his dad, Walter M. Steirman.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Dr. Avraham Giannini in honor of A.J. & Ina & Harvey Turpen Fried

Howard and Fred Hahn in memory of Helga Hahn, and in appreciation of Rabbi Angel

Alice Harron

Rose Katz

Mark Pressler

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Batya Kalis in memory of Evelyn Slenker

Grants

Community Legacy Program Initiative Grant

Synagogue School Scholarship Support Grant

These awards were made possible by the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, through a grant to the Synagogue Federation Partnership. For more information, visit www.sfjcf.org



Left: Irene Ogus and Richard Inlander, z'l, Past Presidents at first Shabbat service in Mishkan Dolores, November 20, 1998

Photo by Michael Bettinger

Above: Davers Building Dedication on May 20, 1984. Past-Presidents, L to R: Daniel Chesir, Leila Raim, Don Albert, Dr. Mike Rankin, Paul Cohen, Irene Ogus, Cheryl Orvis, z'l
Photo by Sam Thal

February 8/9

Bimah flowers and Friday oneg generously sponsored by **Alice Harron** in honor of Wendy Brummer, on her welcoming into the Covenant.

15/16

Saturday kiddish generously sponsored by **AJ and Ina Turpen Fried** in honor of the baby naming of their son, Harvey.

22/23

Bimah flowers generously arranged and donated by **Jan Haber**.

March 1/2

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **Rose-Anne Donner Colt** in memory of her father, Isaac Donner.

Friday oneg generously sponsored by **Tony Enriquez** in honor of his welcoming into the Covenant.

8/9

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **Rose-Anne Donnor Colt** in memory of her brother-in-law, William Colt.

Friday oneg generously sponsored by the families of the students who attended the L'Taken Seminar at the Religious Action Center in Washington, DC on February 8-11.

Saturday Kiddush Luncheon generously sponsored by **Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Schuster** in honor of the bat mitzvah of Delia Anderson-Colson.

15/16

Friday oneg generously sponsored by anonymous in honor of the people who make music at the congregation.

22/23

Friday oneg generously sponsored by **Paul Cohen** in memory of his father, Joseph Cohen and by **James Carlson** in memory of his husband, Richard Roginski.

29/30

Bimah flowers generously sponsored by **Steven and Florence Nacamulli** in loving memory of Noah Nacamulli and Don Eiten.

Friday oneg generously sponsored by **Barbara Harris Frigge** in honor of the birthday of Tony Harris.

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

vegetarian dish that serves four. Free—donations welcome! RSVP by Friday June 21st with the number of people and the dish you'll be bringing to: brad@shaarzahav.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Pride Shabbat, 7:30 pm

Rabbi Rachel Adler, The Jeffrey A. Miller Scholar-In-Residence

Meetings

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Annual Membership Meeting, 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 pm meeting

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's annual congregational meeting and election of leadership and Va'ad (Board of Directors).

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 8 AND JUNE 12

Va'ad Meeting, 6:45 pm

All are welcome to attend and listen to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's monthly Board meeting.

Services

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Friday Night Live, 6:00 pm

Come celebrate a Shabbat specially designed for 0 to 6 year-olds. Our FNL service is followed by dinner in the Oneg Room. We will provide pizza, and encourage you to bring a vegetarian dish to share with the community as well.

FRIDAY, MAY 17 & JUNE 21

Shabbes Beat, 7:30 pm

It's all about that Shabbes groove. Sing, dance, and pray. Joy up, relax, breathe, sway... Join Cantor Sharon and the Shabbes Beat band and chorus at this

monthly rock, jazz, Latin, and blues service and get your Shabbes rest on.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Yizkor Shavuot, 10:00 am

All are welcome to join CSZ as we hold Yizkor services, the service of remembrance, led by Howard Steiermann. Our morning festival service including Hallel and Yizkor are held on Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot. All are welcome to join the community to say Kaddish and honor your loved ones through the mitzvah of remembering.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Shabbat Batya, 7:30 pm

Please join us at a special Friday night service honoring and celebrating Batya Kalis on the occasion of her 90th birthday and the 20th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah.

Music

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Music in the Mishkan, 4:00 pm

Randy Weiss and his band of merry musicians will present the final concert in this year's series, "Russian to the Concert" Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 1

-Ludwig van Beethoven

Tears in Your Hand-Jonathan Berger
Piano Trio in A minor-Peter Ilyich

Tchaikovsky

The concert is followed by a wine and cheese reception. You can order tickets by calling the office at 415.861.6932. Don't miss this beautiful concert in our lovely sanctuary!

Programs

TUESDAY, MAY 7

The Politics of Religion and Jewish Identity in Israel, 7:00 pm

A Talk by Dr. Yaakov Yadgar

Israeli Jewish society is often portrayed as being polarized between the "religious/orthodox minority" and the "secular majority." Yet more than one third of the Jewish-Israeli population, including most Mizrahi Jews, fall into neither camp. This talk will highlight these Jews' ability to transcend the limited nature of the secular vs. religious dichotomy, their impact on Israeli politics, and the ways in which they interpret

the meaning of being Jewish in this late-modern world.

The event will include discussion and small group dialogue led by our congregation's trained facilitators.

Yaakov Yadgar, UC Berkeley's 2012-2013 Lisa and Douglas Goldman Foundation Visiting Professor, teaches in the Department of Political Science at Bar Ilan University in Israel. Dr. Yadgar is a scholar of religious identity, politics, and culture in Israel. His latest books, "Secularism and Religion in Jewish-Israeli Politics" (2011), and "Beyond Secularization: Traditionism and the Critique of Israeli Secularism" (2012, in Hebrew) analyze the failure of the "religious vs. secular" discourse to capture accurately the complexity of the interaction and interdependence of politics and religion in Israel.

Chavurot

SATURDAY, MAY 4 & JUNE 1

Meditation Chavurah, 10:00 am

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting of the meditation chavurah. We will be gathering in the reception area at Sha'ar Zahav about 10:00 am, and will walk to the nearby home of a member to sit in a lovely, peaceful setting. A typical gathering includes a short and longer silent sit, chanting, prayer, and a short teaching. For more information, contact the office, or Sarita at saritaft@gmail.com

SATURDAY, MAY 3 & JUNE 1

Havdallah Chavurah, 7:00—8:30 pm

Please join us for our monthly chavurah. We will begin by doing Havdallah, then enjoy a program. This is a snack-food potluck. Please bring something savory or sweet and join us for havdallah, stories, and good conversation.

FRIDAY, MAY 10 AND JUNE 14

East Bay Chavurah, 6:00 pm

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. RSVP to jisrael68@yahoo.com.

Condolences

Our condolences to Ruth Rainero, Pieter de Haan, and Ilana and Benjamin Rainero- de Haan on the loss of their father, father-in-law, and grandfather, Ivan Rainer.

Our condolences to Fred Hahn and Howard Hahn on the loss of their wife and mother, Helga Hahn.

Our condolences to Lonnie Weiss on the loss of her life-long friend Bobbie Tanenbaum Bloch.

Our condolences to Sarita Groisser on the loss of her very dear friend, Lisa Ligon.

Our condolences to Ron Edelman on the loss of his sister, Evelyn Slenker.

Our condolences to Dr. Avraham Giannini on the loss of his mother, Juliette Giannini.

AIDS Quilt with (L) Ron Lezell, (front) Greer Hauptman and (R) Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Photographer unknown



Our condolences to Julie Minoff and Tasha Mar Minoff on the loss of their step-mother and nana, Bonnie Franklin.

Naches

Mazel tov to Wendy Brummer on her welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel tov to the Turpen-Fried family on Harvey's baby naming.

Mazel tov to Tony Enriquez on his welcoming into the Covenant.

Mazel tov to Delia Anderson Colson on her bat mitzvah.

Member Yahrzeits

May

- 9 Richard Inlander
- 9 Jack Jacobs
- 13 Jerome Davis
- 13 David Delroy
- 14 Thomas Yazman
- 17 Nanci Stern
- 19 Allan Altman
- 20 Robert Coffman
- 21 James Perkins
- 24 David Loeb

June

- 2 Jay Feinstein
- 2 Mark B. Feldman
- 8 Robert N Mackey
- 8 Judy Macks
- 9 Duff Kreitzberg
- 14 John Atteridge
- 14 Mirtha Beal
- 15 Barry Siegel
- 16 Michael Randall
- 16 Richard Rath
- 17 Joe Zygielbaum
- 20 William E. Valentine
- 24 David Shaber

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible.

We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

*Rabbi Camille
Shira Angel*

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arrangements available

*Samuel L. Salkin, Executive Director
Helen Schwartz, Pre-need Counselor*

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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San Francisco CA 94103

VOICE 415-861-6932

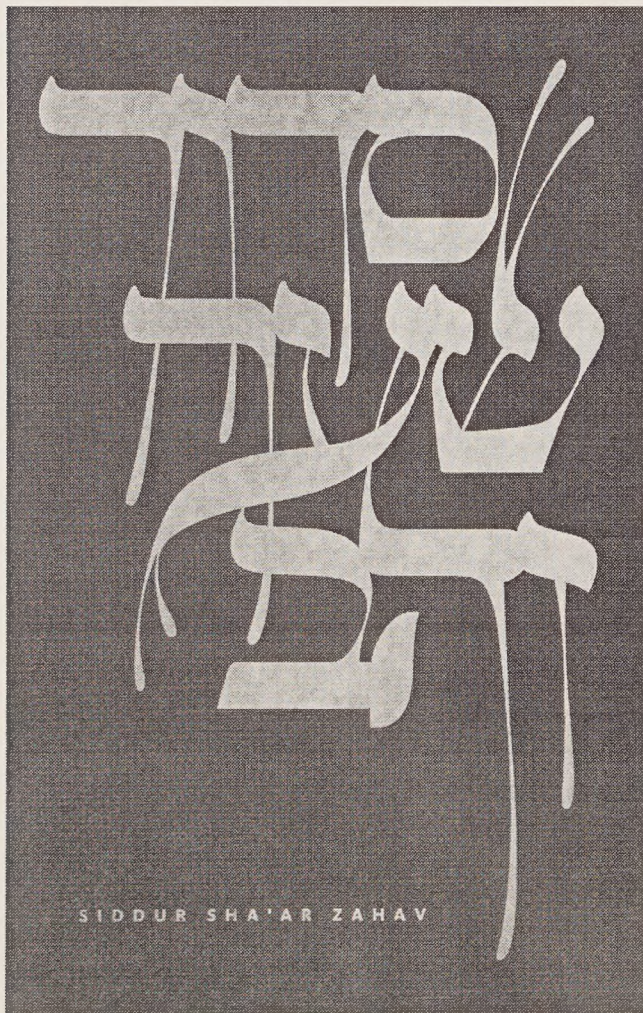
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Siddur Sha'ar Zahav

A Shabbat, Weekday and Festival prayerbook
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Bring a piece of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav home with this beautifully designed egalitarian siddur, filled with words written by members of our congregation. A book to treasure, you will turn to its pages for Shabbat kiddush, for memorial prayers, for times of happiness and sadness. Even when you can't make it to services, you will feel our community singing through these pages.

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Available by contacting the CSZ office

(415-861-6932) or get instant gratification by ordering it online at www.siddurshaarzahav.com